

Community Facilities

GUARANTEED RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN HELPS BUILD NEW CLINIC IN BERTHA

BERTHA, Minn. – Ground was officially broken in October for a new 3,400-square-foot clinic in downtown Bertha, adjacent to the current clinic's location. Eight months later, the clinic is now up and running.

The clinic was built by Tri-County Hospital, which operates a hospital in Wadena and clinics in Bertha, Henning, Ottertail and Sebeka. USDA Rural Development awarded \$700,000 in funding to Tri-County Hospital for the Bertha project.

The funding comes from Rural Development's Community Facilities program, which finances essential community buildings and vehicles. Other funding sources include a Minnesota Department of Health Grant of \$25,000, land donated by the City of Bertha for the new site (value estimated at \$15,000) and Tri-County Hospital internal reserves of \$60,000.

A direct loan of \$500,000 comes from USDA Rural Development. The other \$200,000 is a guaranteed Rural Development loan through Star Bank in Bertha.

This is the third major project Tri-County Hospital has completed with the assistance of Rural Development. Other projects include the Tri-County Hospital expansion and renovation project completed in 2005 and the purchase of Fair Oaks Lodge rehabilitation and long-term care facility in 2004.

"Tri-County Hospital provides quality and modern healthcare options in rural Minnesota," said Steve Wenzel, State Director of Rural Development in Minnesota.

Tri-County operates one of the 79 critical access hospitals in Minnesota. There are 1,283 rural critical access hospitals in the nation.

"We were pleased to receive the loan from USDA which allowed us to build a new clinic that is twice the size of our existing clinic in Bertha," said Dennis Miley, CEO of Tri-County Hospital. "Tri-County Hospital is committed to the future of health care in Bertha and the surrounding area. It's an investment we believe in, and we thank the community of Bertha for their support in this building project."

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